

# USDA/Rural Development

Morgantown, WV

Media Release

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## **PHILLIPS ANNOUNCES \$198,332 AWARDED TO 1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTION, WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE**

Morgantown, WV – Dec. 11, 2003 – West Virginia Rural Development State Director Jenny N. Phillips today announced that more than \$10 million in capacity building grants have been awarded to the 18 historically black land-grant institutions, also known as 1890 institutions, and Tuskegee University.

Administered by USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the program has contributed to improvements both inside and outside the classroom from improving instruction delivery systems through the use of distance education to changing the image of agriculture among African American students. Today, students pursue careers as plant geneticists, dieticians, environmental scientists, aquaculturists, foresters, and marine scientists.

Of the \$10,587,215 available for grants in FY 2003, \$5,358,118 was awarded to support 28 teaching projects and \$5,229,097 was awarded to support 18 research projects. Awards were made to eighteen (18) 1890 institutions in seventeen (17) states. West Virginia State College was awarded \$198,332 to support a teaching project.

For more information about the 1890 Institution Teaching and Research Capacity Building Grants programs, visit <http://www.reeusda.gov/serd/hep/hep.htm>.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>.

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